

Listing of and Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below, wherein underlining indicates additions and strikethrough indicates deletions, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A safety manual vegetable cutter comprising a frame equipped with at least one cutting blade fitted transversely facing a slot through which sliced vegetables pass two side rails to provide guidance in a to-and-fro translational motion for a guide chamber equipped with a loading volume in the guide chamber for vegetables to be sliced and acting in conjunction with a press-down cap designed to be gripped by a user to move the guide chamber to and fro along the guide rails while exerting a constant pressure on the vegetables contained in the loading volume so as to press them against the at least one cutting blade fitted to the frame and enable them to be sliced along a cutting plane by the at least one cutting blade, and means for adjusting the depth of cut including a ramp fitted so as to be capable of translational motion parallel to the cutting plane and facing the at least one cutting blade at a first end to form a slot through which the sliced vegetables pass,

the ramp comprising two side flanges each having
an obliquely inclined hole for adjustably engaging a projection from a guide
rail, and
an opening for receiving a locking screw, and
the guide rails each having an obliquely inclined hole for receiving the locking
screw.

2. (Original) A vegetable cutter according to claim 1, wherein the frame comprises two parallel side uprights connected by a transverse operating handle and forming the guide rails for the guide chamber.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously amended) A vegetable cutter according to claim 1, further comprising means for keeping the first end of the cutting depth adjustment ramp at a constant short distance from the at least one cutting blade.

6. (Original) A vegetable cutter according to claim 1, further comprising at least one foot on which said vegetable cutter stands.

7. (Original) A vegetable cutter according to claim 6, wherein the at least one foot is a folding foot.

8. (Original) A vegetable cutter according to claim 1, further comprising at least two removable and interchangeable transverse blades that are selectively positioned and snapped into place in the frame, one of these blades being equipped with a straight cutting edge while the other is equipped with a corrugated cutting edge.

9. (Original) A vegetable cutter according to claim 1, further comprising at least one removable lengthwise cutter blade equipped with a set of equidistant blades aligned substantially at right angles to the at least two removable and interchangeable transverse blades so as to enable vegetables to be cut into sticks.

10. (Original) A safety manual vegetable cutter comprising
a frame equipped with at least one cutting blade fitted transversely facing a slot through which sliced vegetables pass and
a holder for vegetables to be sliced,

the frame having two side rails to provide guidance in a to-and-fro motion of the holder,

the holder comprising a hollow vegetable receiving portion and a cap surrounding the vegetable receiving portion, the cap having a central opening therein through which passes a rod supported for reciprocal movement, the rod terminating at a first end in a user-manipulatable portion and at an opposite end in a flat plate that is not rotatable relative to the cap for engaging a vegetable to be sliced and for transmitting pressure to the vegetable so that the vegetable is pressed against the cutting blade as the holder is moved to-and-fro along the frame.

11. (Original) A safety manual vegetable cutter, comprising:

a frame equipped with at least one cutting blade fitted transversely facing a slot through which sliced vegetables pass and having two side rails; and

a holder for vegetables to be sliced, comprising guides arranged to engage the side rails of the frame to provide guidance in a to-and-fro motion of the holder along said side rails against transverse movement of the holder;

the holder comprising a hollow vegetable receiving portion and having a central opening therein through which passes a central rod supported for reciprocal movement, the rod terminating at a first end in a user-manipulatable portion and at an opposite end in a flat plate that is larger than the cross-section of the rod and is not rotatable relative to the guides for engaging a vegetable to be sliced and for transmitting pressure to the vegetable so that the vegetable is pressed against the cutting blade as the holder is moved to-and-fro along the frame.